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(54) **LUBRICANT OIL COMPOSITION FOR TRANSMISSIONS**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A lubricating oil composition for a transmission includes a base oil in a range of 1 mass % to 80 mass %, the base oil having a kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C. in a range of 0.5 mm²/s to 20 mm²/s and a viscosity index of 200 or more. Since the composition exhibits a high viscosity index and a high shear stability, the composition is suitable for a continuously variable transmission.

9 Claims, No Drawings

LUBRICANT OIL COMPOSITION FOR TRANSMISSIONS

This application is a 371 of PCT/JP2012/079742, filed Nov. 16, 2012.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a lubricating oil composition for a transmission.

BACKGROUND ART

Recently, as a transmission used in an automobile and the like, a metallic-belt-type continuously variable transmission and a toroidal continuously variable transmission have been developed and been already in practical use. In a lubricating oil used in such continuously variable transmissions, it is sought to reduce a viscosity and increase a viscosity index in order to improve an energy-saving property. On the other hand, since a lubricating oil with a low initial viscosity is easily affected by viscosity reduction caused by shearing, a small viscosity reduction caused by shearing is desired.

Accordingly, there has been proposed a lubricating oil having an energy-saving property and a shear stability that are balanced by simultaneously using a base oil having a relatively high viscosity and an shear-resistant viscosity index improver. For instance, Patent Literatures 1 to 3 each disclose a lubricating oil composition in which a small viscosity reduction by shearing is achieved by increasing a viscosity of a base oil and using PMA (polymethacrylate) or OCP (olefin copolymer) having a low molecular weight.

CITATION LIST

Patent Literature(s)

Patent Literature 1: JP-A-2006-117852
Patent Literature 2: JP-A-2001-262176
Patent Literature 3: JP-A-2008-37963

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Problems to be Solved by the Invention

In a lubricating oil used in a continuously variable transmission, recently, a high viscosity index has been sought in order to improve an energy-saving property and, further, a high shear stability has been demanded for securing a pump discharge pressure. However, in the lubricating oil disclosed in Patent Literatures 1 to 3, the viscosity index is not sufficiently improved. In particular, it is difficult to improve fuel consumption during travel at low temperatures. Moreover, when the lubricating oil is added with a viscosity index improver having a large molecular weight, viscosity reduction by shearing is increased.

An object of the invention is to provide a lubricating oil composition for a transmission having a high initial viscosity index and a high shear stability.

Means for Solving the Problems

In order to solve the above-mentioned problems, the invention provides a lubricating oil compositions for a transmission as follows.

(1) According to an aspect of the invention, a lubricating oil composition for a transmission includes a base oil in a

range of 1 mass % to 80 mass %, the base oil having a kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C. in a range of 0.5 mm²/s to 20 mm²/s, and the lubricating oil composition having a viscosity index of 200 or more.

- (2) In the lubricating oil composition for a transmission according to the above aspect of the invention, the lubricating oil composition has a kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C. in a range of 0.5 mm²/s to 10 mm²/s.
- (3) The lubricating oil composition for a transmission according to the above aspect of the invention further includes polyalphaolefin having a kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C. in a range of 50 mm²/s to 200 mm²/s.
- (4) The lubricating oil composition for a transmission according to the above aspect of the invention further includes at least one of an antiwear agent, an extreme pressure agent, a friction modifier and a viscosity index improver.
- (5) In the lubricating oil composition for a transmission according to the above aspect of the invention, the lubricating oil composition is used for a continuously variable transmission.

According to the above aspect of the invention, a lubricating oil composition for a transmission having a high initial viscosity index and a high shear stability can be provided. Accordingly, the lubricating oil composition for a transmission according to the above aspect of the invention is suitable particularly for a continuously variable transmission (CVT).

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENT(S)

A lubricating oil composition for a transmission according to an exemplary embodiment (hereinafter, also simply referred to as "the composition") is provided by blending a base oil in a range of 1 mass % to 80 mass %, the base oil having a kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C. in a range of 0.5 mm²/s to 20 mm²/s, and the lubricating oil composition having a viscosity index of 200 or more. The composition will be described below in detail.

As the base oil of the composition, a base oil having a kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C. in a range of 0.5 mm²/s to 20 mm²/s is used. When the kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C. is less than 0.5 mm²/s, lubricity is insufficient. When the kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C. exceeds 20 mm²/s, an energy-saving property is poor.

The base oil may be mineral oil or synthetic base oil. A type of the base oil is not particularly limited, but may be suitably selected from any mineral oil and synthetic oil that have been conventionally used as a base oil of a lubricating oil for an automobile transmission.

Examples of the mineral-oil-based base oil are a paraffin-group-based mineral oil, an intermediate-group-based mineral oil and a naphthene-group-based mineral oil. Examples of the synthetic-oil-based base oil are polyalphaolefin (PAO), polybutene, polyol ester, dibasic acid ester, phosphate ester, polyphenyl ether, polyglycol, alkylbenzene and alkyl-naphthalene. Examples of PAO described above are an α -olefin homopolymer and an α -olefin copolymer. One of the above base oils may be singularly used or a combination of two or more thereof may be used.

Moreover, among the above mineral-oil-based base oil, kerosene and light oil are suitably usable as a mineral-oil-based base oil having a low viscosity.

The composition is provided by blending the above base oil in a range of 1 mass % to 80 mass % based on a total amount of the composition.

When a blending percentage of the base oil is less than 1 mass %, advantageous effects of the invention are not sufficiently exhibited. On the other hand, when the blending per-

centage of the base oil is more than 80 mass %, an amount of the polymer to be added is decreased, resulting in an unfavorable decrease in the viscosity index. Accordingly, the blending percentage of the base oil is preferably in a range of 10 mass % to 70 mass %, more preferably in a range of 30 mass % to 70 mass %, further preferably in a range of 50 mass % to 70 mass %.

A kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C. of the composition is preferably in a range of 0.5 mm²/s to 10 mm²/s.

When the kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C. of the composition is less than 0.5 mm²/s, lubricity may become insufficient. On the other hand, when the kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C. of the composition is more than 10 mm²/s, an energy-saving property may be decreased. Accordingly, the kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C. of the composition is more preferably in a range of 3 mm²/s to 9 mm²/s, further preferably in a range of 5 mm²/s to 8 mm²/s.

The composition is provided by blending the above base oil at a predetermined amount and exhibits a viscosity index of 200 or more.

When the viscosity index is less than 200, the lubricating oil exhibits a high temperature-dependence of viscosity although exhibiting a high shear stability, resulting in a poor practical use. Accordingly, the viscosity index of the composition is preferably 210 or more, more preferably 220 or more.

In order to set the viscosity index at 200 or more, a base oil having a high viscosity index may be used, but it is more effective to blend a viscosity index improver (VII). Examples of the viscosity index improver are: non-dispersed polymethacrylate, dispersed polymethacrylate, olefin copolymer, dispersed olefin copolymer, and styrene copolymer. As the viscosity index improver, for instance, the dispersed and non-dispersed polymethacrylates each preferably have a mass average molecular weight of 5000 to 300000. Moreover, the olefin copolymer preferably has a mass average molecular weight of 800 to 100000. One of the above viscosity index improver may be singularly used or a combination of two or more thereof may be used.

A content of the viscosity index improver is not particularly limited, but is preferably in a range of 0.5 mass % to 15 mass %, more preferably in a range of 1 mass % to 10 mass %.

The composition preferably includes polyalphaolefin having a kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C. in a range of 50 mm²/s to 200 mm²/s (PAO having a high viscosity).

It becomes easy to adjust a final viscosity of the lubricating oil composition by blending such a PAO having a high viscosity (high molecular weight). Moreover, blending a PAO having a high viscosity contributes to improvement in the viscosity index of the composition. When the kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C. of PAO to be blended is less than 50 mm²/s, the lubricating oil exhibits a high temperature-dependence of viscosity although exhibiting a high shear stability, resulting in a poor practical use. When the kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C. of the composition is more than 200 mm²/s, a viscosity of the entire composition excessively increases, so that the energy-saving property may be deteriorated. Accordingly, the kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C. of the PAO to be blended is more preferably in a range of 65 mm²/s to 180 mm²/s, further preferably in a range of 80 mm²/s to 150 mm²/s.

A content of the above PAO is preferably in a range of 5 mass % to 30 mass %, more preferably in a range of 7 mass % to 25 mass % based on the total amount of the composition.

The composition may include various additives described below as long as the advantageous effects of the invention are not hampered. Specifically, a pour point depressant (PPD), an

antiwear agent, an extreme pressure agent, a detergent dispersant, a friction modifier and the like may be suitably blended for use.

The pour point depressant is exemplified by polymethacrylate (PMA) having a mass average molecular weight of 5000 to 50000. One of the pour point depressant may be singularly used or a combination of two or more thereof may be used. A content of the pour point depressant is not particularly limited, but is preferably in a range of 0.1 mass % to 2 mass %, more preferably in a range of 0.1 mass % to 1 mass % based on the total amount of the composition.

The antiwear agent and the extreme pressure agent are each exemplified by a sulfur compound and a phosphorus compound. Examples of the sulfur compound are olefin sulfide, sulfurized fat and oil, ester sulfide, thiocarbonates, dithiocarbamates and polysulfides. Examples of the phosphorus compound are phosphite esters, phosphate esters, phosphonate esters and an amine salt thereof or a metallic salt thereof. One of each of the antiwear agent and the extreme pressure agent may be singularly used or a combination of two or more of each of those may be used.

A content of each of the antiwear agent and the extreme pressure agent is not particularly limited, but is preferably in a range of 0.1 mass % to 20 mass % based on the total amount of the composition.

As the detergent dispersant, an ashless dispersant and a metal detergent are usable.

Examples of the ashless dispersant are a succinimide compound, a boron imide compound, a Mannich dispersant and an acid amide compound. One of the ashless dispersant may be singularly used or a combination of two or more thereof may be used. A content of the ashless dispersant is not particularly limited, but is preferably in a range of 0.1 mass % to 20 mass % based on the total amount of the composition. Examples of the metal detergent are alkali metal sulfonate, alkali metal phenate, alkali metal salicylate, alkali metal naphthenate, alkaline earth metal sulfonate, alkaline earth metal phenate, alkaline earth metal salicylate, and alkaline earth metal naphthenate. One of the metal detergent may be singularly used or a combination of two or more thereof may be used. A content of the metal detergent is not particularly limited, but is preferably in a range of 0.1 mass % to 10 mass % based on the total amount of the composition.

Examples of the friction modifier are fatty acid ester, fatty acid amide, fatty acid, aliphatic alcohol, aliphatic amine and aliphatic ether. Specifically, the friction modifier is exemplified by a friction modifier having at least one alkyl group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms or alkenyl group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms in a molecule. For instance, oleic acid and oleylamine are preferably used. One of the friction modifier may be singularly used or a combination of two or more thereof may be used.

A content of the friction modifier is not particularly limited, but is preferably in a range of 0.01 mass % to 2 mass %, more preferably in a range of 0.01 mass % to 1 mass % based on the total amount of the composition.

EXAMPLE

Next, the invention will be further described in detail with reference to Examples and Comparatives, which by no means limit the invention.

Examples 1-10, Comparatives 1-2

Lubricating oil compositions were respectively prepared according to blending compositions shown in Table 1 and

defined as sample oils. Properties and performance of each of the sample oils were obtained according to the following methods.

(1) Flash Point

Measurement was conducted based on JIS K 2265.

(2) Kinematic Viscosity (40 degrees C., 100 degrees C.)

Measurement was conducted based on JIS K 2283.

(3) BF Viscosity

Measurement was conducted based on JPI-5S-26-85.

(4) Ultrasonic Shear Stability Test (Sonic Test)

Measurement was conducted based on JPI-5S-29-88 (measurement temperature: 40 degrees C. and 100 degrees C., irradiation time: 1 hour). Kinematic viscosities and viscosity indexes before and after the sonic test are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

				Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5	Example 6
Composition of Sample Oil (mass %)	Kerosene A			10.00	—	—	—	—	—
	Kerosene B			—	11.00	—	—	—	—
	Kerosene C			—	—	15.00	—	—	—
	Light oil			—	—	—	15.00	—	—
	Isoparaffin			—	—	—	—	20.00	—
	Paraffin A			—	—	—	—	—	20.00
	Paraffin B			—	—	—	—	—	—
	PAO (low molecular weight)			—	—	—	—	—	—
	Gr. II base oil having low viscosity			49.31	48.31	44.31	44.31	39.31	39.31
	Gr. II base oil A having high viscosity			—	—	—	—	—	—
	Gr. II base oil B having high viscosity			—	—	—	—	—	—
	PAO (high molecular weight)			20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
	VII (molecular weight: 30000)			10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
	VII (molecular weight: 160000)			—	—	—	—	—	—
	Other additives			10.69	10.69	10.69	10.69	10.69	10.69
Evaluation Result	Total			100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Flash point	COC	° C.	114	112	124	125	130	136
	BF viscosity	@-40° C.	mPa · s	6250	7150	8000	8100	8200	6570
	Initial kinematic viscosity	@40° C.	mm ² /s	29.92	27.96	28.99	29.31	32.37	30.00
	viscosity	@100° C.	mm ² /s	7.347	6.985	7.113	7.163	7.537	7.285
	Kinematic viscosity after	@40° C.	mm ² /s	29.9	27.9	28.9	29.3	32.3	29.8
	Sonic test	@100° C.	mm ² /s	7.34	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.49	7.2
	Reduction ratio of kinematic viscosity	@40° C.	%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.70
		@100° C.	%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.90	0.80
	Initial viscosity index		—	227	228	224	223	213	222
	Viscosity index after Sonic test		—	226	227	222	222	211	222
				Example 7	Example 8	Example 9	Example 10	Comp. 1	Comp. 2
Composition of Sample Oil (mass %)	Kerosene A			—	—	—	—	—	—
	Kerosene B			—	—	—	—	—	—
	Kerosene C			—	—	—	—	—	—
	Light oil			—	—	—	—	—	—
	Isoparaffin			—	—	—	—	—	—
	Paraffin A			—	—	—	—	—	—
	Paraffin B			58.81	—	—	—	—	—
	PAO (low molecular weight)			—	59.31	—	—	—	—
	Gr. II base oil having low viscosity			—	—	66.21	57.91	—	—
	Gr. II base oil A having high viscosity			—	—	—	—	84.81	—
	Gr. II base oil B having high viscosity			—	—	—	10.00	—	87.61
	PAO (high molecular weight)			20.50	20.00	7.40	7.40	—	—
	VII (molecular weight: 30000)			10.00	10.00	15.70	14.00	—	—
	VII (molecular weight: 160000)			—	—	—	—	4.50	1.70
	Other additives			10.69	10.69	10.69	10.69	10.69	10.69
Evaluation Result	Total			100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Flash point	COC	° C.	146	164	180	180	220	230
	BF viscosity	@-40° C.	mPa · s	8320	6610	7800	6000	8400	30000
	Initial kinematic viscosity	@40° C.	mm ² /s	29.30	31.41	29.30	30.20	32.60	41.00
	viscosity	@100° C.	mm ² /s	7.150	7.355	7.150	7.280	7.291	7.200
	Kinematic viscosity after	@40° C.	mm ² /s	28.7	31.2	28.4	29.7	29.2	38.3
	Sonic test	@100° C.	mm ² /s	7.0	7.3	7.0	7.2	6.185	6.53
	Reduction ratio of kinematic viscosity	@40° C.	%	1.10	0.60	1.60	1.56	10.50	6.60
		@100° C.	%	1.50	0.90	1.90	1.58	15.30	9.30
	Initial viscosity index		—	223	212	223	220	199	139
	Viscosity index after Sonic test		—	221	211	223	219	168	124

Kerosene A

A commercially available product was used (flash point: 44 degrees C., kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C.: 0.892 mm²/s).

Kerosene B

A commercially available product was used (flash point: 42 degrees C., kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C.: 0.987 mm²/s).

Kerosene C

A commercially available product was used (flash point: 84 degrees C., kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C.: 1.621 mm²/s).

Light Oil

A commercially available product was used (flash point: 84 degrees C., kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C.: 1.660 mm²/s, kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C.: 0.805 mm²/s, viscosity index: 30).

Isoparaffin

An isoparaffinic base oil was used (flash point: 87 degrees C., kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C.: 2.560 mm²/s).

Paraffin A

A paraffinic base oil was used (flash point: 101 degrees C., kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C.: 2.166 mm²/s).

Paraffin B

A paraffinic base oil was used (flash point: 138 degrees C., kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C.: 4.320 mm²/s, kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C.: 1.540 mm²/s, viscosity index: 83).

PAO Having Low Molecular Weight

A commercially available product was used (flash point: 156 degrees C., kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C.: 5.100 mm²/s, kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C.: 1.800 mm²/s, viscosity index: 128).

Base Oil Having Low Viscosity

A base oil of API Group 2 was used (flash point: 170 degrees C., kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C.: 7.680 mm²/s, kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C.: 2.278 mm²/s, viscosity index: 108).

Base Oil A Having High Viscosity

A base oil of API Group 2 was used (flash point: 212 degrees C., kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C.: 20.500 mm²/s, kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C.: 4.500 mm²/s, viscosity index: 116).

Base Oil B Having High Viscosity

A base oil of API Group 2 was used (flash point: 222 degrees C., kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C.: 30.600 mm²/s, kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C.: 5.200 mm²/s, viscosity index: 104).

PAO Having High Molecular Weight

A commercially available product was used (flash point: 283 degrees C., kinematic viscosity at 40 degrees C.: 1240 mm²/s, kinematic viscosity at 100 degrees C.: 100.0 mm²/s, viscosity index: 170).

Viscosity Index Improver (VII)

Polymethacrylate (Mw: 30,000)

Polymethacrylate (Mw: 160,000)

Other Additives

An additive package for a transmission oil provided by mixing the extreme pressure agent, antiwear agent, detergent dispersant, pour point depressant and friction modifier was used.

Evaluation Results

In the sample oils in Examples 1 to 10 of the invention, the initial viscosity index exceeded 200, which showed an excellent initial property. The kinematic viscosity and the viscosity index were not so decreased even after the sonic test. This means that the sample oils of the invention exhibit an extremely excellent shear stability and are stably usable for a long period of time. Moreover, the BF viscosity was low, which shows an excellent low-temperature property.

On the other hand, since the sample oils in Comparatives 1 and 2 did not contain the base oil of the invention having a predetermined low viscosity, the initial viscosity index of each of the sample oils was low and shear stability thereof was poor. Moreover, a low temperature property thereof was also poor.

Although the base oils (e.g., kerosene and light oil) having a low flash point were used in Examples 1 to 4, the flash point finally reached 100 degrees C. or more, so that the sample oils of Examples 1 to 4 were sufficient for use.

The invention claimed is:

1. A lubricating oil composition, comprising:

a base oil in a range of from 50 mass % to 80 mass %; and polyalphaolefin in a range of from 7 mass % to 25 mass %; wherein:

the base oil has a kinematic viscosity at 40° C. of from 0.5 mm²/s to 20 mm²/s;

the polyalphaolefin has a kinematic viscosity at 100° C. of from 80 mm²/s to 150 mm²/s;

the lubricating oil composition has a viscosity index of from 210 to 228; and

the lubricating oil composition has a kinematic viscosity at 100° C. of from 6.985 mm²/s to 8 mm²/s.

2. The lubricating oil composition according to claim 1, further comprising:

at least one of an antiwear agent, an extreme pressure agent, and a friction modifier.

3. The lubricating oil composition according to claim 1, which is suitable for a continuously variable transmission.**4. The lubricating oil composition according to claim 1, wherein the base oil is present in the lubricating oil composition in an amount of 50 mass % to 70 mass %.****5. The lubricating oil composition according to claim 1, comprising a viscosity index improver in an amount of 0.5 mass % to 10 mass %.****6. The lubricating oil composition according to claim 1, comprising at least one of a pour point depressant and a detergent dispersant.****7. The lubricating oil composition according to claim 5, wherein the viscosity index improver is present in the lubricating oil composition in an amount of 1 mass % to 10 mass %.****8. The lubricating oil composition according to claim 1, wherein the lubricating oil composition has a viscosity index of from 220 to 228.****9. The lubricating oil composition according to claim 1, wherein the lubricating oil composition has a BF viscosity of 6,000 to 8,320 mPa·s.**

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